

Safe Food, Fair Food for Cambodia

Food environment, food safety & nutrition

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Introduction

Food environment is driving the food choice in low-and-middle-income countries, but there is a [lack of evidence on food environment and inadequate meat consumption](#).

Food safety perception can potentially affect food acquisition & food consumption, but there is a [lack of food environment studies that incorporate food safety perception](#)

Objective

Examine whether mothers' perception of [access to affordable, good-quality and safe-to-consume food](#) are associated with their and their children's food consumption.

Methods

Mixed methods: [in-depth interviews \(IDs\)](#) and [cross-sectional survey](#) with mothers of young children in cities of Phnom Penh & Siem Riep, Cambodia

Mothers expressed a high level of concern of chemical contamination in fresh produce & Mothers' perception of *poor access to good-quality and safe-to-consume food* was associated with low consumption of animal-sourced food, and fruits and vegetables in mothers and their children

Other results

1. Urban food acquisitions

14% of women reported acquiring fruits and vegetables, and 26% acquiring flesh meat (animal meat, fish and seafood) from [their own gardens, relatives, friends or the natural environment](#)

2. Household wealth and child's food consumption

Child age and not household wealth was associated with their meat consumption, suggesting that [beliefs and norms might play important roles in determining the timing of the introduction of meat, fruits and vegetables](#)

Recommendations

Future studies should:

- (1) Examine how food safety perception influences food acquisition and consumption
- (2) Examine household norms and beliefs surrounding the introduction of meat, fruits and vegetables to infants.
- (3) Develop innovative measures of food environment to capture the informal natures of food acquisitions.